United Nations A/C.2/63/L.1

General Assembly

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Sixty-third session
Second Committee

Organization of work of the Second Committee

Note by the Secretariat

Allocation of items

1. The agenda items allocated by the General Assembly to the Second Committee will be listed in the letter from the President of the Assembly to the Chairperson of the Second Committee (A/C.2/63/1). Background information on those items may be found in the annotations to the agenda (A/63/100).

Programme of work

2. The draft programme of work (see annex) has been prepared bearing in mind paragraph (b) of rule 99 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the provisional agenda of the sixty-third regular session of the Assembly (A/63/150), the organizational arrangements agreed upon by the Assembly at the outset of its current session (A/63/250) and the availability of documentation. The number of meetings suggested for the general discussion of the agenda items allocated to the Second Committee is based on past experience.

List of documents

3. Attention is drawn to the addendum to the present note (A/C.2/63/L.1/Add.1), which will list the documentation submitted under the various agenda items allocated to the Second Committee.

Practices and working methods

4. The Second Committee, in implementing General Assembly resolution 58/316, in particular paragraphs 3 (c) and (d) of section C of the annex, shall utilize or expand the practice of interactive debates and introduce the practice of "question time".

Length of statements

5. The Second Committee, in the past, decided to limit statements on all agenda items to 7 minutes and to limit statements during the general debate to 15 minutes.

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Conference facilities and meetings arrangements

6. Taking into account the availability of conference services for the Main Committees of the General Assembly, an average of seven formal meetings a week have been scheduled for the Second Committee. Unless otherwise specified, meetings will be held at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. In this connection, the Assembly decided to remind delegations that punctuality is of the utmost importance in the interest of ensuring an effective and orderly organization of work and achieving economies for the United Nations. As decided by the Assembly, the requirement of the presence of at least one quarter of the members of the Committee to declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed has been waived.

Informal consultations

7. In view of the financial measures affecting conference services, and as indicated in the programme of work, some of the formal meetings allocated to the Second Committee will be utilized for informal consultations under the chairmanship of the Bureau members of the Committee so as to ensure full servicing of those consultations. In accordance with established practice, informal consultations will be used for expressing general observations on the proposals and for adopting them ad referendum. All drafting will be done at the level of informal "informal" consultations (without interpretation or other services) and will be conducted by the appointed coordinators/facilitators.

Report of the Economic and Social Council

8. Pursuant to paragraph 4 (c) of section D of the annex to General Assembly resolution 58/316, the item entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council" should be considered in its entirety in plenary; however, it was clarified by the General Committee that the relevant parts of chapter I of the report that fall under agenda items already allocated to the Main Committees would be considered by the Committee concerned for final action by the General Assembly (see A/59/250/Add.1, para. 4).

Conclusion of the work of the Committee

9. Bearing in mind the number of meetings available to the Second Committee, it is proposed that the Committee set a target date of 28 November 2008 for the conclusion of its work.

Annex

Draft programme of work of the Second Committee

Week of 29 September-3 October 2008

Monday, 29 September

10 a.m.

Organization of work

Week of 6-10 October 2008

Monday, 6 October

10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-6 p.m.

General debate

Tuesday, 7 October

10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-6 p.m.

General debate (*continued and concluded*)

Friday, 10 October

10 a.m.-1 p.m. (*side event*)

Week of 13-17 October 2008

Monday, 13 October

10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-6 p.m.

***Item 50*: Macroeconomic policy questions:**

(b) International financial system and development

(c) External debt and development: towards a durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries

(d) Commodities

Tuesday, 14 October

6 p.m.: deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 52 (b) through (d)

Wednesday, 15 October

10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-6 p.m.

***Item 57*: Operational activities for development**

Thursday, 16 October

10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-6 p.m.

***Item 51*: Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the preparation of the 2008 Review Conference**

6 p.m.: deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 57

Friday, 17 October

10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Dialogue with the executive secretaries of the regional commissions

6 p.m.: deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 51

Week of 20-24 October 2008

Monday, 20 October

10 a.m.-1 p.m. (*side event*)

3-6 p.m.

***Item 49*: Information and communication technologies for development**

Tuesday, 21 October

6 p.m.: deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 49

Wednesday, 22 October

10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-6 p.m.

***Item 56*: Eradication of poverty and other development issues:**

(a) Implementation of the second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)

(b) Industrial development cooperation

Thursday, 23 October[1]

10 a.m.-1 p.m.

***Item 41*: Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources**

6 p.m.: deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 56 (a) and (b)

[1] The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations will be holding a lunchtime event in observance of World Food Day.

Friday, 24 October

10 a.m.-1 p.m. (*side event*)

6 p.m.: deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 41

Week of 27-31 October 2008

Monday, 27 October

10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-6 p.m.

***Item 52*: Sustainable development:**

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

(b) Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

(c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

(d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

(f) Convention on Biological Diversity

(g) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its tenth special session

Tuesday, 28 October

10 a.m.-1 p.m.

***Item 52*: Sustainable development, sub-items (a) through (g) (*continued*)**

3-6 p.m.

***Item 53*: Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)**

Wednesday, 29 October

6 p.m.: deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 52 (a) through (g) and item 53

Thursday, 30 October

10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-6 p.m.

***Item 54*: Globalization and interdependence:**

(a) Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence

(b) International migration and development

(c) Culture and development

(d) Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets, in particular to the countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption

(e) Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy

Friday, 31 October

6 p.m.: deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 54 (a) through (e)

Week of 3-7 November 2008

Monday, 3 November

10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-6 p.m.

***Item 55*: Groups of countries in special situations:**

(a) Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

(b) Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

Tuesday, 4 November

6 p.m.: deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 55 (a) and (b)

Wednesday, 5 November

10 a.m.-1 p.m.

***Item 50*: Macroeconomic policy questions:**

(a) International trade and development

3 to 6 p.m.

***Item 50*: Macroeconomic policy questions, sub-item (a) (*continued*)**

***Item 113*: Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly[2]**

***Item 122*: Programme planning[3]**

Thursday, 6 November

6 p.m.: deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 50 (a), item 113 and item 122

Week of 10-14 November 2008

Monday, 10 November

10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3 to 6 p.m.

2008 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities and 2008 United Nations/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Pledging Conference for the World Food Programme

Tuesday, 11 November

10 a.m.-1 p.m. (*side event*)

Thursday, 13 November

10 a.m.-1 p.m. (*side event*)

Week of 17-21 November 2008

Tuesday, 18 November

10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Action on outstanding items

Thursday, 20 November

10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Action on outstanding items

Week of 24-28 November 2008

Tuesday, 25 November

10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Action on outstanding items

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[2] The item is allocated to all the Main Committees for the sole purpose of considering and taking action on their respective tentative programmes of work for the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

[3] The item is allocated to all the Main Committees and the plenary of the General Assembly to enhance discussion of evaluation, planning, budgeting and monitoring reports.

Wednesday, 26 November

10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Action on outstanding items

Conclusion of the work of the Second Committee